



Dear Citizens,

As Mayor, I have two goals when it comes to law enforcement – protect our citizens from our most violent criminals, and get communities the resources they need to overcome longtime social challenges. There are few responsibilities of city government that outweigh these goals. And, we must be focused on creating long-term solutions, not quick fixes.

To help stem the tide of violence in the city, this week I announced a three-part public safety strategy to bring back hope and security to the people of Baltimore.

This strategy, which our police department has already put into action with help from other city agencies, is built around these themes:

- **Target Enforcement** at the people and activities that present the greatest threat to public safety and;
- **Engage Communities** and empower citizens in their own neighborhoods;
- **Build Strong Partnerships** with federal and state agencies, and institutions and foundations to make all our efforts more effective.

We have already implemented Operation Protect, a program that combines the efforts of law enforcement, city services and community groups to get young people and adults the resources they need to learn, to find jobs, to get help with housing, and treatment for their addictions. Operation Protect is complimented by officers knowing the areas they patrol and the people they serve. Our new program, Adopt-A-Block is helping police better understand neighborhoods.

This new strategy is working, and the city is getting safer. Violent crime is down 17% compared to last year, which means 555 fewer violent crimes. Property crime is also down, 10%, which means 911 fewer property crimes were committed.

Restoring and strengthening trust between police and citizens is vital. I am confident that Commissioner Hamm and the dedicated men and women of the Baltimore Police Department are the right people to get the job done. Already this year, the Police Department has made 2,500 fewer arrests compared to the same time period last year, and we have seen a 41 percent drop in excessive force complaints and a 29 percent drop in discourtesy complaints.

I also believe in working with our federal and state partners to share resources and coordinate efforts. Programs like Project Exile allow us to toughen federal sentencing guidelines and get dangerous, repeat offenders off the street.

This week, I proposed a regional Gun Task Force to track and curb illegal gun sales and track gang activity so that we all see the bigger picture. This task force, which is staffed by six Baltimore City Police Officers, will be assisted by five Maryland State Troopers. The federal government has pledged support for this task force as well.

When combating illegal guns, information is essential. Using the CitiStat model, we will create GunStat, which will track gun arrests and seizures, monitor the time it takes to analyze guns used in crimes, and provide information on the prosecution and sentencing for gun crimes in Baltimore. This information will allow police on the street, the Task Force and those of us in City Government to measure the effectiveness of our strategies.

I am grateful to have partners in law enforcement who understand the problems we face. State's Attorney Pat Jessamy, who has been working on the issue of illegal guns for over a decade, will play a pivotal role in keeping criminals off the streets.

Working together with all our partners will enable us to step up enforcement of our gun laws and get criminals and illegal guns off the streets of Baltimore.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon, Mayor, Baltimore